

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ZURAB ZHVANIA, PRIME MINISTER OF REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 108) commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 108

Whereas on the night of February 3, 2005, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania, died, apparently due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a malfunctioning heater;

Whereas the death of Prime Minister Zhvania at the age of 41 is a tragic loss for the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania was a dedicated reformer whose visionary leadership inspired a new generation of political leaders in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania founded the Citizen's Union Party, which won elections in 1995, making him the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament;

Whereas under the leadership of Speaker Zhvania, the Georgian Parliament was transformed into an effective and transparent legislative institution;

Whereas in November 2001, Speaker Zhvania resigned his position in protest when government authorities attempted to suppress the leading independent television station in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania formed the United Democrats, a party that blossomed into one of the major forces that brought about the Rose Revolution in the Republic of Georgia in November 2003;

Whereas in the most dangerous hours of the Rose Revolution, when it appeared that armed force could be used against the peaceful protestors, Zurab Zhvania dismissed his bodyguards and led a march to Parliament accompanied only by his young children;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania was named Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia in November 2003, and led governmental efforts to develop and implement far-reaching economic, judicial, military, and social reforms thereby turning the promise of the Rose Revolution into real results that have dramatically improved life in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas the strong commitment of Zurab Zhvania to the peaceful restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia was most recently displayed in the central role he played in the development of the unprecedented and generous proposal of the Republic of Georgia for resolving the status of South Ossetia peacefully and justly; and

Whereas Zurab Zhvania's vision of the historical destiny of the Republic of Georgia was eloquently expressed before the Council of Europe on April 27, 1999, when he said, "I am Georgian and therefore, I am European": Now, therefore, be it.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its sympathy and deepest condolences to the family of Zurab Zhvania for

their tragic loss of a son, husband, and father, and to the people of the Republic of Georgia for the death of their Prime Minister;

(2) commends the courage, energy, political imagination, and leadership of Zurab Zhvania that were so critical to the development of a democratic Republic of Georgia;

(3) recognizes that the integration of the Republic of Georgia into Euro-Atlantic institutions will be the completion of the vision of Zurab Zhvania and his most lasting legacy; and

(4) expresses its solidarity with the people and Government of the Republic of Georgia at this difficult time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 108.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, the House considers H. Res. 108, introduced by the esteemed Chair of the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY). It is a resolution commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, who at the time of his death was the Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

On February 3, Prime Minister Zhvania died suddenly, apparently as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a malfunctioning heater. This resolution expresses the House of Representative's sympathy and condolences to the family of Zurab Zhvania and to the people of Georgia for the death of their Prime Minister.

The resolution also commemorates the life of Zurab Zhvania and calls for the completion of his vision to integrate Georgia into the greater European-Atlantic community. Prime Minister Zhvania was a prominent leader in Georgia's Rose Revolution. He was a true reformer, a strong believer in democracy, and a good friend to America. In fact, Georgia recently decided to increase its troop levels in Iraq at the very time when other nations are drawing down their military presence in that country. Georgia also participates in the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo and has troops in Afghanistan.

The death of Zurab Zhvania is a tragic loss for Georgia and all those who support democracy in that nation. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may con-

sume and join my colleague from Michigan in commemorating the extraordinary life and the tragic death of Zurab Zhvania, the late Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

While he served in the position of Prime Minister for a relatively short time, all independent observers conclude that he contributed immeasurably to the democratic reform of the Republic of Georgia. He was committed to opening the minds of the Georgian people and inspiring them to move away from the regressive wrongdoings of the Communist establishment.

He will always be known as a true reformer, a strong believer in democratic values, and a good friend of America. We are all saddened by his loss, and I join my colleagues in expressing condolences to the family of Mr. Zhvania.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 108.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF ARMED FORCES AND EMPLOYEES OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID IN RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OF DECEMBER 26, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 120) commending the outstanding efforts by Members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 120

Whereas on December 26, 2004, an earthquake and tsunami struck the Indian Ocean basin, killing over 250,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, Burma, Maldives, Malaysia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Kenya;

Whereas the response by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was immediate, invaluable, and courageous;

Whereas civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID showed great leadership in helping to coordinate relief efforts